



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
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Released: September 21, 2006

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2005 Idaho Potato Crop Valued at \$674 Million

The final value of Idaho's 2005 potato crop was \$674 million, \$113 million above 2004's value of \$561 million, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The market year average price received by growers of \$5.70 per cwt was above the 2004 level of \$4.25 per cwt. While value increased from 2004, the quantity sold declined. Idaho's growers sold 109 million cwt from their 2005 crop, down from the 120 million cwt sold from the 2004 crop. Growers used 1.23 million cwt on the farm for seed, feed and household consumption. The remaining 7.80 million cwt was lost to shrinkage, decay and dumping. Fresh market sales accounted for 30.4 million cwt of the 2005 crop, down 11 percent from the 2004 crop, while processing accounted for 69.2 million cwt, compared to 75.7 million cwt in 2004. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used a total of 77.4 million cwt of 2005 crop potatoes compared to 84.6 million cwt used in 2004. Of the total processed, 69.2 million cwt were Idaho potatoes. Processing in Idaho and Malheur County accounted for 58.5 percent of Idaho's production compared to 57.4 percent of the 2004 crop. Idaho's 2005 potato production of 118 million cwt accounted for 31 percent of the entire U.S. Fall production of 383 million cwt. The Pacific Northwest; Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, collectively, totaled 236 million cwt or 62 percent of the U.S. Fall production.

For the United States, the value of all potatoes sold from the 2005 crop is estimated at \$2.76 billion, up 18 percent from the previous year. The average price, at \$7.06 per cwt, is up \$1.40 from a year earlier. Sales from the 2005 potato crop totaled 391 million cwt, down 6 percent from 2004. Processors used 246 million cwt of raw potatoes from the 2005 crop, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Table stock sales totaled 120 million cwt, 8 percent below the previous year. Seed sales of 22.3 million cwt are down 3 percent from 2004. Sales for livestock feed, at 2.00 million cwt, are up 3 percent from a year earlier. Shrinkage and loss are estimated at 28.5 million cwt for 2005, down 24 percent from 2004. Potatoes used for livestock feed on farms where grown and home use totaled 1.19 million cwt, 1 percent below the previous season. Growers kept 3.60 million cwt for seed on their own farms, virtually unchanged from a year earlier.

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